

**UNITED STATES COURTS FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT
OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE**

**Byron White U.S. Courthouse
1823 Stout Street
Denver, CO 80257-1823
303.844.2067**

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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FEDERAL JUDGE TO EDUCATE KANSAS YOUTH ABOUT JURY SERVICE

DENVER, 26 Mar. 2003 – The Honorable Deanell Reece Tacha, a Kansas native and Chief Judge of the Denver based U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals will participate in an interactive daylong program to educate Kansas youth about jury service. The program will be held from 8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2003, at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, 703 W. 2nd, Oakley, Kansas. The objectives of the program are:

- To present jury service as a privilege and adult responsibility—the only opportunity that citizens have to participate *directly* in government.
- To present jury service as an adult rite of passage, like voting.

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- To increase the court literacy of young people so their level of ease and familiarity enhances the likelihood of responding positively to jury summons.
- To dismantle misinformation and negative perceptions about courts, judges and jury service that are barriers to jury participation.
- To provide a simulation of the process of jury service—summons, questionnaire, selection, trial, deliberation, verdict, debriefing.

Approximately 84 students, from 18 school districts, will play the roles of jurors. Prior to the event, students will receive a classroom lesson on the Function of and Qualifications for Jury Service. Then, students will receive a mock jury summons and questionnaire to be filled out and brought with them when they report for jury service on Monday. Student jurors will view a short video on the jury system and a randomly selected group will participate in voir dire. There will be an abbreviated mock trial and students will be given jury instructions. All students will deliberate and reach a verdict. The program will close with a debriefing and a panel discussion led by Chief Judge Tacha and other distinguished volunteers.

Other distinguished volunteers who graciously accepted the challenge to participate in this precedent setting educational outreach program are:

District Magistrate Judge John E. Bremer
Decatur County
Oberlin, KS

District Magistrate Judge Rebecca W. Crotty
Finney County District Court
Garden City, KS

District Magistrate Judge Richard L. Kvasnicka
Logan County Courthouse
Oakley, KS

District Magistrate Judge Richard J. Ress
Thomas County District Court
Colby, KS

District Magistrate Judge Shelley L. Selfridge
Lane County Courthouse
Dighton, KS

The Honorable Richard W. Wahl
Concordia, KS

Attorney David J. Rebein
Rebein/Bangerter
Dodge City, KS

Attorney Charles G. Stewart
Oakley, KS

Judges Crotty, Kvasnicka, Ress, Selfridge and Wahl will play the roles of bailiffs. Judge Bremer will act as the courtroom deputy. Attorney David Rebein will be the Federal Public Defender and attorney Charles Stewart will be the U.S. Attorney. Chief Judge Tacha will be the judge for the mock trial.

To make the event even more memorable, students will be offered pizza from the local Pizza Hut and soda from the Oakley IGA Store while they're in deliberations. Margie Broeckelman of the Oakley Area Chamber of Commerce collected contributions for the lunch, and donations were received from:

- Mr. David Rebein (Rebein/Bangerter, Dodge City, KS)
- Mr. Laurence Allan Taylor (Thomas County Attorney, Colby, KS)
- Mr. Preston Pratt (Hirsch & Pratt, LLP, Oakley, KS)
- Mr. Douglas Spencer (Spencer & Spencer, PA, Oakley, KS)
- Judge Richard Kvasnicka (Oakley, KS)

The Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Office of Public Affairs, provided the framework for the program as a national effort to educate students about the federal judiciary. The Director of Public Education for the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, Linda Rivas, customized the program for this event and will use it for future educational training for the local Denver based *Operation: Education* outreach program.

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FACT SHEET

Contact: Linda Rivas
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Biographical Information and Participating Schools:

Chief Judge Deanell Reece Tacha

Born 1946 in Goodland, KS
Chambers – Lawrence, KS

Federal Judicial Service

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit (CO, KS, NM, OK, UT, WY)
Nominated by Ronald Reagan on October 31, 1985, to a new seat created by 98 Stat. 333;
Confirmed by the Senate on December 16, 1985, and received commission on December 16, 1985. Served as chief judge, 2001 – present

Education

University of Kansas, B.A., 1968
University of Michigan Law School, J.D., 1971

Professional Career

White House fellow, special assistant to the secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, 1971-1972
Private practice, Washington, DC, 1973
Private practice, Concordia, KS 1973-1974
Director, Douglas County Legal Aid Clinic, Lawrence, KS, 1974-1977
Faculty, University of Kansas School of Law, 1974-1985
Member, U.S. Sentencing Commission, 1994-present

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Magistrate Judge John E. Bremer

Born 1946 in Oberlin, KS

Education

Washburn University, B.A., 1968

Washburn University, J.D., 1973

Two years in United States Army

Professional Career

In-house counsel for Medicalodges Inc. – Coffeyville, KS

Lund Law Firm, Chartered – Oberlin, KS

Elected District Magistrate Judge for Decatur County, replacing the retiring Judge Elmer Tacha – 1973

President of the Kansas District Magistrate Judge’s Association – 2000-2001

Magistrate Judge Rebecca W. Crotty

Hometown – Garden City, KS

Education

Kansas University, B.S., 1972

Washburn Law School, J.D. 1977

Professional Career

Taught special education in Topeka, KS 1972-1974

Law Clerk – Kansas Supreme Court 1977-1978

Corporate counsel (Mobil Oil Corporation) 1978-1979

Bank counsel 1979-1993

Private practice, Garden City, 1993-1999

District Magistrate Judge, Garden City, KS - 1999-present

Magistrate Judge Richard L. Kvasnicka

68 years old

Education

National Judicial College at Reno

Professional Career

Law Enforcement; Agriculture; Military

Former Oakley City Council Member

Former Logan County Fairboard Member and President

Director from Kansas in the National Judges Association

District Magistrate Judge, Oakley, KS – 11 years

Magistrate Richard J. Ress

Education

Kansas State University, Bachelors Degree and Graduate Teaching Assistant
Washburn School of Law, J.D.

Professional Career

Criminal Justice Instructor at Colby Community College
Practiced Law in Colby until appointed Magistrate Judge in 1983
Currently municipal judge in Brewster, Colby and Rexford
Served on the Municipal Judges Board of Directors and was President (13 years)
Deputy Thomas County Attorney
Appointed by the Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court to serve on the Court-
Education-S.R.S. and the Access to the Courthouse Committees

Magistrate Shelley L. Selfridge

District Magistrate Judge in (Dighton) Lane County, KS

Education

Bachelors and Masters degrees from Kansas State University
Certification from Kansas State Supreme Court – 1997

Professional Career

Managing secretary for a local law firm – 12 years
Elected to the Bench in 1996, took office in January, 1997
First female judge to serve Lane County and is currently serving second term

Personal

One son, Andrew Bertholf, who is a sophomore at the Kansas City Art Institute

The Honorable Richard W. Wahl

Born in Rice County, KS
Residence – Concordia, KS

Education

Lyons High School
University of Kansas – School of Business, 1949
University of Kansas – School of Law, 1951

Professional Career

Private practice, Lincoln, KS 1951-1975
Judge of Kansas Twelfth Judicial District 1975-1989
Assignments in Kansas as replacement judge 1989-1996
Kansas Senior Judge assigned to the appellate courts of KS 1996-present

David J. Rebein, Attorney at Law

Born in Dodge City, KS

Admitted to Kansas Bar 1980

Currently practicing in Dodge City, KS (Rebein/Bangerter)

Education

Washburn University, B.A., Summa Cum Laude

University of Kansas, J.D., 1980

Memberships

Ford-Gray County, Kansas Bar Association (past President)

Kansas Bar Association (past President Litigation Section; Member, Bd. of Governors)

SW Kansas Bar Association (Member, Board of Directors)

Kansas Association of Defense Counsel (past President)

Kansas Trial Lawyers Association

KU Law School Board of Governors

Participating Schools

Brewster

Colby

Golden Plains (Rexford & Selden)

Goodland

Healy

Herndon

Hill City

Hoxie

Oakley

Oberlin

Quinter

St. Francis

Sharon Springs

Triplains (Winona)

WaKeeney

Weskan

Wheatland (Grainfield)